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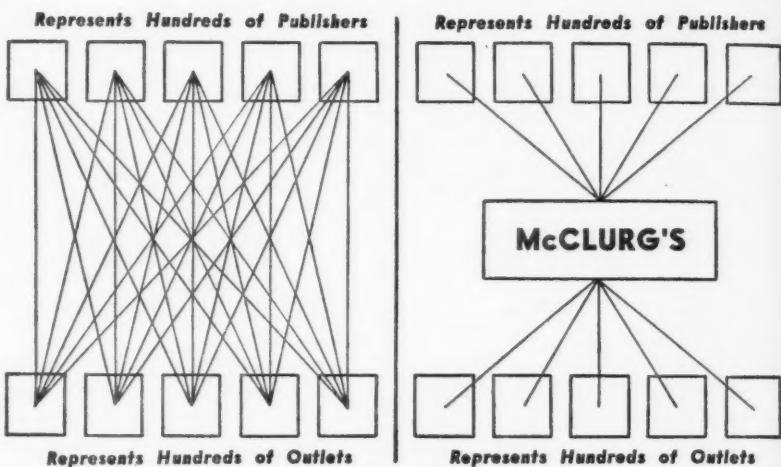
MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 18  
NUMBER 2

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# THE MICHIGAN LIBRARIAN

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

JUNE  
1952

VOLUME 18  
NUMBER 2

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The Michigan Librarian is published four times a year by the Michigan Library Association for its membership. Printed by the Sturgis Printing Company, Inc., Sturgis, Michigan.

Subscription price to non-members, one dollar a year, payable in advance. Single copies, 35 cents each. Subscription for less than a year and numbers from back files will be charged at the single copy rate. Subscriptions and circulation inquiries should be addressed to the Business Office.

## **From The President**

This has been a busy Spring for your M.L.A. officers. Districts, Sections, and Committees have all been working hard, as many of you know who have participated in these programs. As we enter the summer months, I would like to report briefly on what your Association is doing.

Miss Burnside reports on another page on the District Meetings held this Spring. Those I attended were outstanding. The programs were interesting and stimulating, and I believe that most of us received new inspiration from their attendance. I was pleased that the trustees took a more active part in these programs. Miss Burnside and the District Officers deserve much credit for a job well done.

Miss Ruth Warncke, Kent County Librarian, has been appointed chairman of the M.L.A. Committee on Intellectual Freedom. This committee is tremendously important, and I am especially happy that Miss Warncke has consented to serve. I know that she will do an outstanding job. Further announcement will be forthcoming in the near future on this committee.

As many of you know, the Legislature this Spring suggested an Interim Study Committee to study State Aid to Libraries. Composed of Representatives Conlin, Thompson and Van Valkenburg, the Committee will work with an M.L.A. Committee composed of Mrs. Mary Daume, Chairman, Frances Burnside, Mrs. Marion Wilcox, Arthur Yabroff, and Charles Follo. These two groups will be working together this summer and next fall, studying present State Aid Laws and possible revisions. It is hoped that a series of joint meetings can be held around the State to give everyone an opportunity to make known their views.

Recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Certification, and of the State Board for Libraries, were read and discussed at all District Meetings. Also, a copy of the Sub-Committee's report was included in the March *Michigan Librarian*. It is planned to give the membership an opportunity to vote on these recommendations at the Annual Conference next fall. Miss Marian Young has been appointed chairman of a special committee on M.L.A. Finances. She and her committee have been asked to report to the Association at the Conference with any recommendations they care to make.

Our Trustees have taken an active part in District Meetings this Spring. The Trustee Board, representing every District, met in Lansing last Spring, with a full attendance and much enthusiasm. Mrs. Clarence Hilberry, chairman of the Trustee Section, is being sent by the Trustees to the New York A.L.A. Conference. In addition, the Trustees are planning to bring in an outstanding Trustee for a General Session at our M.L.A. Conference which should be one of the Conference's Highlights.

The Conference Committee is working hard on plans for our Annual Conference, November 5 to 8, to be held in Lansing. John Lorenz, Program Chairman, Mrs. Fannie Noonan, Local Arrangements Chairman, and Kenneth Knight, Exhibits Chairman, are doing everything in their power to make the Conference a most successful one.

According to my latest information, the Planning Committee met with Mrs. Gertrude Schenk late in June to prepare for an extensive State-wide Library Survey. Mrs. Schenk has an excellent reputation, and some important decisions were made at this meeting.

Finally, we have a new Junior Librarian at our house. John Oliver was born May 27. We hope that you will come to call on him.

*Robert M. Orr*



# The Second Look - A Survey

Gretchen Schenk

*Editor's Note: This article by Gretchen Schenk is the first published result of the work of the Association Planning Committee. Mrs. Schenk was in Michigan last month working with the committee in their preliminary work on a survey of the state's library resources. This article is a preliminary look at the present and future needs of the state in the area of library service.*

These Michigan librarians are smart people. Instead of waiting twenty-five, fifty or more years before taking a second look at their library service, they vote to study it exactly fifteen years after the first state aid was granted.

Michigan, of course, has a long library history, actually. The large number of very small libraries prove this. Library service was promoted by permitting a variety of organizations, municipal, county, township, school district and association libraries, and combinations of any or all of them by contract. Only the "older" states used all these devices to encourage the organizing of libraries.

Michigan also has more experience than most states in administering state aid. Many others patterned their state aid distribution scheme on Michigan's pioneering venture. Here there has been an opportunity to observe over a longer period the effectiveness of a certain type of state aid program.

Judging by the action of the Michigan Library Association, the time has come to re-evaluate past experiences. Two questions need to be answered:

Are the people of Michigan getting more and better library service today than they were in 1935-1937?

How can present library programs be improved to furnish citizens better library service in the mid 1950's?

To find answers to these two queries, the Association will need to embark on what might be termed a short term and a long term project. The former should provide some answers regarding the 1953 legislative program. The long term study ought to in-

volve not only public library service, but every type, including school, college, and special libraries, to strengthen the entire library service pattern within the state.

Basic to either project will be a study of present resources now available to the citizen—books, materials and personnel. No claims can be said to be valid unless the supporting data can furnish proof, and no plans can be promoted unless MLA members know their facts. The success of this study will rest on the cooperation of all members. No resources study can succeed unless everyone works.

The present state aid law will undoubtedly be worth a long second look. State aid laws in recent years have become much broader and more flexible, so that citizens will actually get better library service in toto. Money grants varying between ten and a thousand dollars do not ultimately raise the total level of library service for the citizens of the state. Only when enough money and enough people are combined in a state aid formula can citizens actually obtain full benefit from state aid grants. State provided services, in contrast, have proved their worth far beyond dollars and cents in recent years in several states, notably New York.

A simpler state aid law with broader provisions can probably be obtained from the legislature if librarians and trustees, as well as library minded citizens express their full confidence that the State Board for Libraries can administer a broader law.

Another area that justifies a second look is that of consultants' services. The soundness of the policy has been demonstrated. Conceivably an expanded program will bring more and better library service to the upper two-thirds of the state, now seriously underdeveloped. A single consultant answering all questions regarding every phase of public library service including films and recordings must be Superwoman.

Michigan has pioneered in many library fields, so the short term program might also consider how it would be possible to reward and stimulate any federation, cooperative or contractual plans that promise results in better, more modern service. The Public

Library Inquiry proved that interdependence brings citizens more for their library tax dollar than "unsplendid" isolation. Possibly Michigan can again point the way in promoting newer patterns of service.

No Michigan librarian or trustee can fail to see the need for new and adequate housing of the fire-beset Michigan State Library. If MLA is successful in urging legislative action on providing funds for a new State Library building, the 1953 legislative session will be noteworthy even if little else can be accomplished.

The long-term project of studying library service present and future in Michigan would, of course, include the over-all library service picture—what it is at present, what will be needed to bring it up-to-date.

In this field Michigan can benefit by the experience of numerous other states and regions such as New York, the Northwest, the Southeast, Mississippi, Texas, and others. As in the resources study, which would also be a part of this project, the success of the undertaking would again rest on the wholehearted working together of all segments of MLA. In addition, no proposal, either short or long term, can succeed unless it is well and fully understood by librarians, trustees, citizens generally and the governing officials. Possibly a Governor's Conference on library service would provide the state-wide publicity needed.

Another long term project which would be valuable both to the citizens of Michigan as well as those of other states would be a demonstration that would be planned as a laboratory in large-unit library service. Closeness to Lansing would guarantee frequent study and observation, just as James L. Gillis organized the first California county library in Sacramento county so that all organizational "bugs" might be promptly spotted and eliminated before the plan was introduced on a state-wide basis.

Michigan librarians have already had considerable work done for them, notably the study on library service in the Upper Peninsula by Zona Williams. The MLA Planning Committee will undoubtedly make good use of these studies and not be averse to recognizing certain basic facts in Michigan economy. Local effort is the basis of support for public library service in Michigan today. It may be, however, that the Williams' study and others will prove that certain areas may need state-supported library service. When an area has made every financial effort to maintain its own library service and still falls far short of what should be available to every citizen of the state, then another pattern of service is needed. There should be little question of acceptance of such service if local support and autonomy are assured.

## *The Nominations - 1952 - 53*

### **FIRST VICE PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT ELECT**

Katharine M. Stokes, Librarian, Western Michigan College of Education, Kalamazoo. B.S., Simmons College, 1928; M.A.L.S., University of Michigan, 1945. Assistant Librarian, Ludington Memorial Library, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, 1928-30; Assistant in Circulation and Cataloging, Harrisburg Public Library, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 1930-31; Circulation Librarian, The Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pennsylvania, 1931-1940; Acting Reference Librarian, Swarthmore College Library, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, 2nd semester, 1940 (on leave from The P.S.C.); Assistant Librarian for Readers' Service, The P.S.C., 1940-45; Circulation Librarian, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, 1945-48; Librarian, Western Michigan College, 1948-date. Member, A.L.A., M.L.A.; Editor, I.L.A. Record, 1947-48; Editor, *Michigan Librarian*, 1949-51; Secretary, College and University Section, P.L.A., 1938-39, Chairman, 1939-40; Executive Board, P.L.A., 1940-41; Chairman, Recruiting Committee, A.C.R.L., 1950-51; Secretary, A.L.A. Joint Committee on Library Work as a Career, 1951-date; A.C.R.L. Representative on A.L.A. Council, 1951—.



## FIRST VICE PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT ELECT

Ruth Warncke, Librarian, Kent County Library. University of Illinois, B.S. in education., 1931; University of Chicago, M.A., 1932; Columbia University, B.S. in L.S., 1942. Teacher-librarian, Glenview (Illinois) Public School, 1933-41; Head, Young Adult Department, Schenectady Public Library, 1942-44; Readers Adviser, Grand Rapids Public Library, 1944-45; Director, Kent County Adult Education Council, 1945-47; Kent County Librarian, 1947-to date. Staff member, Study of Adult Education in Rural Areas for the Fund for Adult Education, Ford Foundation, September to January, 1951. MLA, ALA, AEA. President, Staff Association, Schenectady (N.Y.) Public Library 1943;



*Ruth Warncke* chairman, Adult Education Section, *Katharine M. Stokes* MLA, 1946; president, Grand Rapids Librarian's Club, 1947; chairman, County Library Section, MLA, 1948; chairman, District IV, MLA, 1949; chairman, Legislative Committee, MLA, 1949; Adult Education Board, ALA, 1949; chairman, Extension Workshop Committee, Extension Division, ALA, 1950; Planning Committee, MLA, 1950; chairman, Relations with Publishers Committee, MLA, 1950.

## SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Dorothy Middlebrook Shipman. Born Oct. 25, 1892, Manistique, Mich. A.B. Wells College, 1914. Library training University of Michigan. Summer School, University of Chicago correspondence, library workshops. Present and past chairman of Dist. 7, Mich. Lib. Assoc. Author of 12 books of verse and prose for program material. Newspaper work. Editor of two Christmas anthologies; Stardust and Holly and Christmas Recitations for Young and Old. Travel lecturer on unusual vacation trips. D.A.R.; O.E.S.; Presbyterian, Republican, Librarian, Manistique School & Public Library since 1918.

## SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Mrs. Katharine D. Nevitt: Librarian at Sault Branch of Michigan College of Mining and Technology, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan; B.A. Wells College, 1924; Certificate, University of Wisconsin, 1925; Reference Librarian, Hackley Public Library and Librarian, Muskegon Heights Branch, 1925-26; Branch librarian, Great Lakes Naval Training Station, 1943-46; Branch librarian, Sault Branch, Michigan College of Mining & Technology 1946 to date; member, A.L.A. & M.L.A.; member, M.L.A. Nominating Committee, 1949-50; member M.L.A. Public Relations Committee, 1952-53.

## SECRETARY

Forrest H. Alter, First Assistant, Audio-Visual Department, Detroit Public Library. A.B., University of Pittsburgh, 1936; B.S., School of Library Service, Columbia University, 1947; Detroit Public Library, 1947 - date. Member, M.L.A., A.L.A., Music Library Association, Adult Education Association of the U.S.A., Metropolitan Library Club, Detroit Junior Librarians. Chairman, Detroit Junior Librarians, 1948-49; Chairman, Michigan Junior Libra-

rians, 1949-50; Chairman, Nominating Committee, M.L.A., 1949-50; Chairman, Nominating Committee, J.M.R.T. of A.L.A., 1949-50; Secretary-Treasurer, District III, M.L.A., 1949-50; Recruiting Committee, M.L.A., 1950-52; Secretary-Treasurer, Adult Education Section, M.L.A., 1951-52; Editor, *News Bulletin*, Detroit Public Library Staff Association, 1951-52.

### SECRETARY

Eleanor S. Burgess, Chief of the Children's Department, Grand Rapids Public Library, A.B. Wheaton College, Norton, Mass. 1931; Certificate, University of Wisconsin Library School, 1936; Caroline Hewins Scholarship, 1935-36; Assistant, Boys and Girls Room, Providence, R.I. Public Library, 1931-35; Children's Librarian, Glen Ellyn, Ill., Free Public Library, 1936-1938; Children's Librarian and Assistant Librarian, Lyndhurst, N.J. Free Public Library, 1938-1940; Executive Secretary for Girl Scouts of America in Kalamazoo, Mich., Portland, Me., Danbury, Conn., 1940-1945; Head of Work with Children, Scranton, Pa., Public Library, 1946-1948; Chief of the Children's Department, Grand Rapids Public Library, 1948-to date. Member, A.L.A., M.L.A., Secretary-Treasurer, School and Children's Section, M.L.A., 1950-51; Vice-president, Grand Rapids Librarian's Club, 1951-to date; Chairman, Spring Institute Committee, Sec-School and Children's Section, M.L.A., 1952.

### TREASURER

H. Glen Fitch, Librarian, Hillsdale College, A.B., Michigan State Normal College, 1934; B.S. in L.S., Library School, George Peabody College for Teachers, 1935; M.A., Michigan State College, 1939; Part-time evening reference librarian, Michigan State College, 1935-1937; Reference Librarian, 1937-1946; Librarian, Hillsdale College, 1946-to date. Member A.L.A., M.L.A.; Vice-chairman, M.L.A. District 2, 1946-1947; Chairman of same district, 1947-1948; Treasurer, M.L.A., 1950-1952.

### TREASURER

William Chait: A.B., Brooklyn College, 1934; B.S. in L.S., Pratt Institute Library School, 1935; M.S. in L.S. Columbia University School of Library Service, 1938; Part-time student assistant, Brooklyn Public Library, 1935-41; Branch Librarian, Brooklyn Public Library, 1941-45; Service Command Librarian, Second Service Command, U.S. Army, 1945-1946; Chief in service training and personnel control, Milwaukee Public Library, 1946-48; Librarian, Kalamazoo Public Library, 1948-to date. Member, A.L.A., M.L.A.; Member A.L.A., Committee on Annuities, Pensions, and Life Insurance, 1946-50; Chairman, M.L.A. Public Relations Committee, 1949-to date; Member, M.L.A. Salary, Staff and Tenure Committee, 1950-to date; Chairman, M.L.A. District I, 1950-51; Chairman, Adult Education Section 1951-to date.

### MEMBER AT LARGE—TRUSTEE

Mrs. Franklin M. Reck: Homemaker; Secretary to her author husband, Franklin M. Reck, Manchester, B.S., Iowa State College, 1924; Home Economics teacher, Iowa, Colorado, and Michigan, 1924-1929; President, Detroit Council of Camp Fire Girls, 1923-1937; Past President, Manchester Township Library Board, and member since 1943. Chairman, District II, Trustees Section, M.L.A., 1947-1950 Member, Membership Committee, Trustees Section, 1951 Member-At-Large (Trustee Group) M.L.A. 1951-52.

### MEMBER AT LARGE—TRUSTEE

Mrs. Chester I. Hoffman, Home maker; Member First Congregational Church, South Haven, Michigan. Program Chairman and Treasurer Church Group; 1950-to date; Treasurer Acacia Chapter Order of Eastern Star, 1946- to date; Teacher schools Eaton County, Michigan; Training Hastings County Normal, Charlotte County Normal, Extension Western Michigan College of Education; Substitute teacher schools South Haven, 1920-to date; Trustee South

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Haven City and Township Library Board, 1930-to date; Vice president South Haven City and Township Library Board 1942-to date; Assistant Guardian South Haven Campfire Girls, 1936-1939; President Women's Scott Club, South Haven, 1936-1938; President Van Buren County Federation of Women's Clubs, 1949-1950; Chairman Library Service, Michigan State Federation of Women's Clubs, 1939-1942 and 1949-1951; Chairman Library Service Southwestern District, Michigan State Federation of Women's Clubs, 1945-1947; Chairman, International Relations, So. W. Dist. MSFWC, 1945-1947; Financial Secretary, Michigan State Federation of Women's Clubs, 1941-1943; Recording Secretary, Michigan State Federation of Women's Clubs, 1943-1945; Recording Secretary Southwestern District Michigan State Federation of Women's Clubs, 1949-1951; Chairman Scholarships and Awards, Southwestern District Michigan State Federation of Women's Clubs, 1951-to date; Member State Nominating Committee Michigan State Federation of Women's Clubs, 1949, 1951; Chairman District No. 1 Trustees Group M.L.A. 1948; Chairman Membership Committee District No. 1 Trustees Group M.L.A. 1952-1953; Member M.L.A.

#### **MEMBER AT LARGE—PROFESSIONAL**

Charlotte Shaw: Branch Librarian, Mark Twain Branch, Detroit Public Library. A.B. in L.S. University of Michigan, 1927. Adult Assistant Detroit Public Library 1927-52; Branch Librarian, Bookmobile 1942-48; Edison Branch 1948-51; Mark Twain Branch 1951-to date. Chairman MLA Sub-Committee Combined Book Exhibit 1951. Member A.L.A., and M.L.A. .

#### **MEMBER AT LARGE—PROFESSIONAL**

Virginia Summers, Librarian, Lansing Public Library, Lansing, Michigan. A.B. in L.S., University of Michigan 1940; Lansing Public Library, Circulation Department, 1929-1939; Head of Circulation 1940-1943; Head of Adult Services 1943-1945; Librarian 1946-to date. Member A.L.A., M.L.A., chairman Dist. 5, 1944; Legislative Committee M.L.A., 1948-1949; A.L.A. Councilor 1946-1951.

#### **FOR A.L.A. COUNCIL MEMBER**

Mrs. Marion K. Wilcox, Associate Librarian, McGregor Public Library, Highland Park. A.B. in L.S., University of Michigan, 1927. Fordson High School Library, Dearborn, Cataloger 1927-31. Circulation Assistant, War Information Head, Associate Librarian (Audio-Visual Head) 1940-to date. Member A.L.A., M.L.A.; Vice-Chairman, District 3, 1948-49; Chairman, District 3, 1949-50; Legislative Committee, M.L.A. 1947-49, 1949-51; Professional Member-at large, M.L.A. Executive Board, 1951-52; M.L.A. Planning Committee, 1951-53; M.L.A. Conference Program Committee, 1952.

#### **FOR A.L.A. COUNCIL MEMBER**

Eleanor A. Ferguson, Chief Librarian, Dearborn Public Library. A.B. Radcliffe College, 1930; B.S. Simmons College, 1934; M.S. in L.S. Columbia University, 1948. Assistant, Children's Utica (N.Y.) Public Library, 1934-37; Children's Librarian, Rochester (N.Y.) Public Library, 1937-40; Librarian, James Prendergast Free Library, Jamestown, N.Y., 1940-45; Librarian, Free Library, Council Bluffs, Iowa, 1945-48; Chief Librarian, Dearborn Public Library, 1948-to date. Member, M.L.A. and A.L.A. Member, N.Y.L.A. Council, 1944-45; District Chairman, Iowa L.A. 1946-48; Secretary, Adult Education Section, MLA, 1948-49; Member, Public Relations Committee, MLA, 1949-50; Chairman, Legislative Committee, MLA, 1950-51; Chairman, Federal Relations Committee, MLA, 1951-52. Member, ALA Federal Relations Committee, 1951-52.

# *A New Kind of Reading Survey*

—Keith Doms  
Midland Public Library

When 35 eighth grade students offer voluntarily to make a survey as their contribution to the over-all planning for a new public library, it's news. That's the story behind the recently completed survey of reading tastes in Midland. Full credit for the idea, from start to finish, goes to the youngsters.

If all of the suggestions they tabulated were to be implemented, Midlanders will be able to view television, see movies, listen to records, enjoy a smoking lounge, park their bikes, and buy soft drinks.

In addition, they will be able to borrow movie films, records, and tape recorders. Reference books will be available for home use.

As fresh and stimulating as were the results of the survey, the writer found the entire project a rewarding experience from the inception of the idea to the final presentation of the 17-page document to the Library Board.

Like most things, this project didn't just "happen." Several months ago, Faculty Advisor Clyde Glazer introduced his eighth grade "core" class at Central Intermediate School to the new "Citizenship Education Project" plan innovated by Columbia University to arouse an awareness of civic responsibilities and opportunities among students. One of the ideas suggested was a project that would familiarize students with their local library. In this particular case, a survey which would be of value to the library administration in developing new services seemed most suitable.

As a result, a delegation conferred with the City Librarian to informally discuss the proposal. Later the Librarian was given an opportunity to appear before the entire class for further discussion. And then the group went to work!

First, the class elected a Planning Committee to define the purpose of the survey and to develop specific plans. Subsequently, Research, Publicity, and Questionnaire Committees were appointed. Each of the students had a definite assignment and responsibility to perform.

An early decision was made to survey the third through the sixth grades on the assumption that this group tends to constitute a fairly homogeneous reading level. The two other groups to be covered were the seventh through twelfth grade age-group and a cross-section of adults.

It is interesting to note that a vocabulary for each age level to be surveyed was devised for the three different questionnaires. Basic questions to be answered remained the same in content.

The questionnaire in its final form was submitted to 2,487 students and 500 adults following a trial run at which time 200 samples were tried in each of the three categories mentioned above.

Such questions as how many people use the library, why and how often they go to the library, and what types of books and magazines they prefer were answered from the questionnaires.

In the space left for other comments, it was evident that many people felt a need for show cases, aquariums, newspaper files, and "books on child care on the upper shelves in the same places as will be found children's books on the lower shelves."

It was interesting to learn, among other things, that in this city of scientifically and technically trained people, everyone from the cradle to the grave placed mystery story reading at the top of his list.

Magazine preferences varied from a single request for the JOURNAL OF ORTHO-PSYCHIATRY to an over-whelming interest in HOT ROD. The tabulations related to magazine tastes have proved to be of particular value.

One of the principal educational values for the students involved in the project was the development of interviewing techniques and skills.

Prior to actual interviews, the students rehearsed the various situations they might encounter before the entire class. For example, the timid type, the overly talkative individual, the surly and non-cooperative person.

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During the week allotted for interviews, the students found Midland residents most cooperative and keenly interested in this undertaking. Little need be said of the public relations values to all concerned. Press and radio coverage was more than generous.

All interviews were completed in one week with no over-lapping. Assignments were made on a block coverage basis following a careful study of city and ward maps.

The tabulations were made quickly and efficiently. Following the arrangement of a group of tables into a U-shape, assembly line techniques were developed which made it possible to tabulate as many as 600 questionnaires per hour.

After this process was completed, the survey report was prepared with the students doing all of the necessary mimeographing. In addition, they planned and designed a series of

graphs used to supplement the text of the report.

In three years this same group of students will be in a high school class where they will have an opportunity to do a follow-up study on the new Midland Public Library.

As is the case with many surveys, there were some obvious weaknesses. However, it must be remembered that the average age of the 35 students who were responsible for the survey in all of its many aspects was 14 years.

Every student made one or more contributions to the project. They worked an average of four hours per week for six weeks. This amounts to a total of 840 hours for the entire assignment.

Wholly in keeping with our best concepts of a democratic society, this project proved to be a fine example of community-wide co-operation.

## *Special District Meetings Called*

By order of the Executive Board of the Michigan Library Association called meetings of each district will be held prior to the state meeting this fall. The program will be arranged by a special committee, under the chairmanship of Miss Frances Burnside, President Elect, consisting of the chairmen of Interim Study, Legislative, Planning, Public Relations and Relations with Publishers Committees. Details of time and place will be cleared with the District Chairmen.

The next session of the Legislature may be a crucial one in so far as the library program in Michigan is concerned. The function as well as the future of the state library is under close scrutiny. The principles of state aid to libraries are being critically re-examined. It is imperative that all librarians and trustees become familiar with the legislative program now in the planning stage if we would progress together toward better library service on a statewide basis.

The M.L.A. Interim Study Committee is working with the Education Sub Committee of the House Ways and Means Committee in

an effort to revise the State Aid Law. The State Aid Committee of the State Board for Libraries will direct a questionnaire to all librarians this summer relative to the effectiveness of current provisions of the law and seek reactions to certain proposals. The Planning Committee of the M.L.A. has been working with a consultant of national repute relative to larger areas of service. More details of this will be found elsewhere in this issue of the Michigan Librarian.

Expanded consultant service, library demonstration programs administered by the State Board for Libraries and the future of the state library itself are subjects to be discussed. Everyone must be thoroughly familiar with both problems and policies if we would achieve any degree of success in our legislative presentation.

Don't miss your district meeting this fall! Bring your staff, your trustees, your city officials, your friends of libraries that all may know and freely discuss the future of the library service in Michigan!

# The Comics - an Attack

By Martha Boaz

Paradoxical connotations appear in the term "comic", for in the minds of librarians and teachers "tragic" is a more appropriate term to apply to the wide-spread habit of comic-book reading among American children. Surveys show that 98 per cent of all children between eight and twelve years read comic books.

Comic books are better sellers than "best sellers" in the regular book field. Some comics sell more than half a million copies per issue with certain ones totaling six million copies per title, annually. It is a somewhat embarrassing reflection on the American educational system that records from army posts during the war proved that comic books outsold the three most popular magazines of today: *Readers Digest*, *Life*, and *Saturday Evening Post*. As a result of comic-book picture reading, many soldiers could not read printed instructions—hence, the army printed several instruction manuals in a semi-comic book format.

Robert E. Southard laments the fact that comic-book reading is a national pastime—that approximately 100,000,000 people are comic book addicts who devote around 30,000,000 hours to comics every month and spend \$72,000,000 a month on them. Such figures are appalling and jolt one into an inquiry as to why these trashy little books have such a wide-spread appeal. Children who are questioned as to why they like comics answer, "We like the pictures." They like the color, they like the fact that they are easy to read and they are easy to read merely because there is not much reading to do—the bulk of the story is found in the pictures. They like the content of the pictures: thrills, adventure, scares, big-time heroes, and jam-packed action stories. They like them because they can afford them—many comics cost only a dime.

The evils of comic books have a more far-reaching influence on children than most adults realize. What are these evils? Many comic-books focus almost entirely on crime.

They attempt to justify their subject matter by claiming to teach that crime does not pay. Yet gangsters and criminals are glorified; there are countless law-breaking episodes such as gun play, lying, murder, arson, dishonesty, cruelty, etc., without evidence of justice being meted out to the lawbreakers. By such stories children's moral values become confused and their ethical standards uncertain. Distorted dramatizations of crime and sex are harmful to children. Newspapers bear this out in headlines which have appeared in recent years, as: "Comic Strips To Blame in Boy's Hanging"; "Children Dash in Front of Autos in Cleveland, 'Sudden Death' Game" (police say the ideas came from comics.) The blood-curdling adventure which is in many comics often upsets impressionable, highly sensitive children and causes a nervous emotional mal-adjustment. Lowell Thompson condemns comics: "In the comic magazines there is some sadism, and a great deal of brutality. The themes and plots of the picture stories are completely formless. No feat of magic is out of bounds, yet the implications of limitless power are never faced. You find a bullet-proof giant putting in a lot of time and overhead straightening out a small time love affair. This he will do in the midst of death and bloodshed, leaving mechanical monsters undisturbed if they will but gorge themselves on less conspicuous characters. The kid brothers revel in it, just as their grandfathers reveled in the Old Testament." It is indeed sad when a foreign newspaper comments on our comic plight as did the London weekly, "The New Statesman and Nation" in a recent statement which declared that the United States is being destroyed from within by its own comic books; and further added that if the trend continues the strongest nation in the world may some day fall apart like the Roman empire.

Because the mind usually functions at its lowest level of awareness when looking at pictures, comics tend to develop lazy, un-

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critical mental habits. The information is inaccurate and misleading and develops poor reading habits with very little return value for the time spent in reading. A fast reader can cover an average thirty-two page comic book in approximately thirty minutes because he skips hurriedly from one picture to another, to catch up on the action. The drawings, in the majority of cases, are very poor. Badly drawn, and badly written, they depict stereotyped plots with little or no originality, no design, no value of any kind. The print is badly formed and hard on the eyes. The language is crude and the use of slang excessive. Examples which constantly appear are whamo, awrki, yourse, mug, gitchoself, nuthin. Continuous reading of comics dulls a child's sensitiveness and response to the beauty and variety of language. Sterling North attacks comics by saying: "Their crude blacks and reds spoil the child's natural sense of color, their hypodermic injection of sex and murder make the child impatient with the better, though quieter, stories. Unless we want a coming generation ever more ferocious than the present one, parents and teachers throughout America will have to band together to break the "comic" magazine . . . . The shame lies largely with parents who don't know or don't care what their children are reading. It lies with unimaginative teachers who force stupid, dull twaddle down eager young throats, and of course, it lies with the completely immoral publishers of the "comics"—guilty of a cultural slaughter of the innocents. But the antidote to the "comic" maga-

zine poison can be found in any library or good bookstore. The parent who does not acquire that antidote for his child is guilty of criminal negligence."<sup>1</sup>

This charge and this challenge have not been met. Comic books increase in popularity daily and the very fact that this is true shows that the home and school fail in the job of supplying the basic needs of children; they turn to comic books for wish-fulfillment and escapism. To combat this evil we must cooperate—librarians, teachers, publishers, and parents—we must furnish books better and more attractive than comic books. We must display them in libraries and on news stands and in homes. If beautiful picture books could be printed for the price of "comic best sellers", wouldn't they be equally popular? (A challenge to publishers!) In a program to substitute better books for comics, points to remember are these: there must be a large quantity of easily accessible, easily read books to choose from, they must be profusely illustrated and the adults who guide children's reading must build group acceptance of the books. Social pressure is often very evident in certain school groups. In one third grade class it was discovered that the children read comics because their friends did. They wanted to know what every one else was talking about. Adults should know the type of comic books children prefer and then provide better books which make a similar appeal.

<sup>1</sup> Excerpts from an editorial by Sterling North in the Chicago Daily News, May 8, 1940.

## A Plea to Librarians

The Michigan Library Association at the suggestion of Richard L. Thompson, member of the State Legislature from Highland Park, is sponsoring the collection of books for Jackson Prison to replace the library destroyed in the recent riots. It should be emphasized to Michigan librarians and to their patrons that the chief sufferers from the lack of library facilities at the prison are the men who had nothing to do with the riots. Idleness and a lack of recreational facilities are themselves breeders of riots. The contribution of books,

although not decisive in itself can help to prevent future unrest in the prison.

Almost all kinds of books will be welcome. There are prisoners interested in almost every subject about which a literature has been written. It should be emphasized also, however, that the greatest need is for recreational reading. Search your own stacks and ask help from your patrons in this. The State Library will be glad to help if you need help. All books collected should be sent to Mr. John Spencer, Assistant to the Warden at Jackson Prison.

## *The "Point Four" Conference*

--Eleanor A. Ferguson

When I first decided to go to the National Conference on International Economic and Social Development, it seemed impossible to remember such a cumbersome title; so I began to call it "The Point Four Conference." The only trouble was that everyone I talked to looked blank and said, "Just what is Point Four?" I found I was pretty vague myself, so here is the answer in detail.

In his Inaugural Address of January 20, 1949, President Truman listed four chief points of American foreign policy, of which the fourth was a "bold new program for making the benefits of our scientific advances and industrial progress available for the improvement and growth of underdeveloped areas." Strictly speaking, the term applies only to the State Department's program known as Technical Cooperation Administration, but is used loosely to cover a great many other programs as well, all working toward the end of making our know-how and techniques available to other countries.

The Conference was held in Washington on April 7, 8, and 9, under the sponsorship of sixty-four national organizations ranging from the American Library Association to the United Automobile Workers, from the Society for the Propagation of the Faith to General Mills, Inc., from the National Farmers Union to the Urban League. Only five or six librarians were among the 1296 delegates registered, and so far as I know, the Michigan Library Association was the only state association represented. It was strictly an unofficial conference (i.e. not Government-sponsored) but certainly those who planned it received the fullest cooperation from the State Department, the Mutual Security Agency, and the United Nations. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the delegates of what was being done, and frankly that purpose was achieved so thoroughly that this writer has only just begun to recover from the flood of information and opinion in which she was immersed!

Monday morning, the stage was set for the conference by speeches "From the Viewpoint of the United States" by Nelson Rockefeller, and "From the Viewpoint of the Underdeveloped Nations" by Charles Malik, of Lebanon. Mr. Rockefeller while whole-heartedly in favor of the idea behind Point Four, was quite critical of the way in which the United States was handling it, particularly its failure to recognize the long range nature of the problems which led it to offer piecemeal solutions to recurring crises rather than a multi-lateral and systematic approach; and the use of U.S. government channels almost exclusively rather than those of the United Nations, the voluntary agencies, and private business. He also stressed our need of the minerals and raw materials produced by the under-developed countries, as well as the importance of raising their standard of living so that they could afford our products.

Dr. Malik, who was one of the most delightful speakers of the conference, laid all today's unrest at the door of modern communications, which are so good that people all over the world know about the high standards of living elsewhere and want for themselves what others have. He saw the technical assistance program as the chief weapon against Communism, but thought a basic change in habits of thought would have to come about before his people came to regard a problem as something to be corrected as Americans do, instead of the will of God, as the East does.

I wish it were possible to give an outline of each outstanding speech, but space will permit only a listing of a few other speakers: Associate Justice William O. Douglas; Walter P. Reuther, UAW-CIO; David W. Brooks, General Manager, Cotton Producers Association; Mrs. John G. Lee, President of the League of Women Voters; W. Averell Harriman, Director for Mutual Security; Secretary of State Dean Acheson; David Owen, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic

Affairs, United Nations; and Sir Herbert Broadley, Assistant Secretary-General, Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations. The President of the United States was scheduled to address the Tuesday night banquet, but was unable to attend due to the crisis in the steel industry; Secretary of State Acheson read his address. The final address was made by Eric A. Johnston, Motion Picture Association of America.

However, there was much more to the conference than listening to big names. I wish I could give you the feeling that I brought away, of the enormous ferment of activity in this field, carried on by government agencies, by churches and social service agencies, by business, by the United Nations Specialized Agencies. Perhaps a few glimpses that stand out in my mind will give you the sense of immediacy and the practical nature of the help being offered. For instance, there is the project in the new nation of Libya, where TCA provided instruction in bookkeeping and secretarial practice so that the new government might know whether or not it was in the red. Or the dam in Afghanistan built to store water for irrigation; it could also supply hydro-electric power, but Afghanistan's power needs are supplied by the use of 42 tons of coal a day, and they have plenty of coal. Or the shirt factory established by the Singer Sewing Machine Company in Ceylon, so that native cotton can be made into native shirts by native workers. Or the 56 nations receiving technical assistance from the United Nations out of its current budget of 20 million dollars; 43 of those nations are giving technical advice to other member nations at the

same time as they receive help. The 31,000 foreign students who are now studying in the United States, and the same number of Americans studying abroad. That for \$10 of American money, CARE will supply a farmer in India or Pakistan with a mattock, a weeding hoe, a pitchfork, and a shovel to take the place of wooden implements which are all he has now.

I came home with a feeling that in spite of the many criticisms heaped on the way the program is now being handled, it was doing more good in its small way than could be achieved with the same money by any other means—certainly than by armaments and threats of war. As Dr. Malik of Lebanon said, the fundamental question is whether we who grew up in Western civilization can interrelate ourselves with the people of the East so that they will like us instead of fearing us. I should like to close with a quotation from Dr. Henry G. Bennett, first administrator of the Point Four program, who was killed in an airplane accident while on an inspection tour of Point Four programs. He said of underdeveloped countries:

"These people now have a window into the 20th Century through which they can see the evidences of progress long denied to them, and through which they can hear those great ideas of self-government, economic progress and social justice that we have been championing. They are looking for a door, and we are helping them to find one. To do so is in our own best interest, for they are our neighbors in a shrinking world. This, in a nutshell, is the meaning of Point Four."

## The Legislative Committee Reports

The Michigan Legislature, trying to balance the State Budget, drastically cut appropriations for all government agencies this year. During the legislative session, there was a constant threat that State Aid for Libraries would be eliminated entirely. Aware of the seriousness of the situation, the Legislative Committee of the MLA wrote to all librarians and trustees in Michigan. Even those whose libraries do not now receive state aid promptly talked or wrote to their legislators urging passage of an adequate library state aid bill. As a result, the State Aid for Libraries bill passed both houses of the Legislature without oppo-

sition and was promptly signed by the Governor. In spite of the cut made generally in state aid funds, the State Aid for Libraries appropriation remained the same as last year's. Another result of the letters written by your Legislative Committee took the form of suggestions from librarians, trustees, and legislators that changes are necessary in the present formula of distribution of state aid to libraries. Suggested changes concerned the lack of equalization grants, increasing of general fund grants, and more incentive for formation of county and regional libraries.

Robert Orr, President of the Michigan Li-

brary Association, has appointed an Interim Study Committee to work with a committee of the Michigan State Legislature toward making the desired changes. Mrs. Mary Daume is chairman of the MLA Interim Study Committee with Arthur Yabroff, Frances Burnside, Mrs. Marian Wilcox, and Charles Follo. Legislators working on the study are Rep. Rollo G. Conlin, Rep. Wade VanValkenburg, Rep. Richard Thompson, and Sen. Elmer Porter.

Mr. Orr has also appointed another committee composed of the chairmen of the Legislative Committee, the Planning Committee, the Committee on Relations with Publishers, the Interim Study Committee, the First Vice-President of MLA, and a member from the State Board for Libraries and the Extension Division of Michigan State Library. Miss Frances Burnside, First Vice-President, is chairman of this committee which will arrange meetings in each district of MLA this fall. At these workshop meetings, proposed changes in the distribution formula will be explained and discussed, with each library in the state represented.

Passage of the state aid bill was of prime importance to the Legislative Committee, this year, but we also took part in hearings on the reorganization of the State Board of Education, worked with committees of women's clubs, and discussed with legislators bills affecting penal fines, contracts between libraries, township ordinances, municipal library buildings, and education employees retirement pay. We talked to Governor Williams about the controversial plan to combine Michigan State Library and the library of Michigan State College on the campus. The question of a new building for the Michigan State Library, because of the blanket refusal of planning money for new state buildings, must be postponed until the next session of the Legislature.

Our experience this year has shown us that

we as Michigan librarians will need a year-round plan of action to improve the library legislation picture on a state level.

Our legislator must know our library all year long, not just at bill-passing time. Sending him our annual reports, newspaper clippings, book lists, etc. occasionally will rouse his interest in our problems.

Do our friends do enough talking about us? The more our legislator hears about us from various people in his home community, the more important our needs will be to him.

There's a tendency in the legislature to feel that state aid is such a small part of each library's budget that it will never be missed if it's eliminated. Can we show the legislator what our expenditure to state aid funds has given our library, the materials it could not have without it?

Perhaps our most important legislative duty is to make a friend of each legislator in our district. If we can approach him as friends, he will not think of us as part of a pressure group. He will be much more receptive to our ideas. By taking a personal interest in him as our friend in Lansing who can speak for us when necessary, we will have made a valuable contribution to library progress.

The legislative field is only one part of library service in Michigan. By working together through the Michigan Library Association, we can all do our part to improve the library situation in the state.

This committee hopes it has proved worthy of your confidence in us this year. Our thanks to all the librarians, trustees and friends of Libraries who have helped us in our tasks. MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Mary Daume, Chairman  
Mrs. George Graybiel Emma Sihler  
Maureen Fisher Richard Malone  
Karl Burg Leonora Haas  
Keith Doms Norman Bunker  
Charles Follo Eleanor Ferguson

## Pre-Conference Adult Education Workshop

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1952  
10:30-11:00 Registration (No extra fee for the workshop)  
11:00-12:30 Film Discussion Demonstration (Film and materials recommended and prepared by the fund for adult education will be used)

12:30- 2:00 Lunch—anywhere you please  
2:00- 3:15 Working with Community Groups  
3:15- 3:45 Business meetings and Intermission  
3:45- 5:00 American Heritage Book Discussion Demonstration.

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# *Who's Who in M.L.A.*

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## Additions and Corrections to M.L.A. Officers and Committees

### *District Officers, Trustees*

#### *District 1, Chairman*

*Miss Cornelia Crowley, instead of Mrs.*

### *District Officers*

#### *District 4, Secretary-Treasurer*

*Mrs. Clare Gale Small*

#### *District 5,*

*Miss Mildred Smith, instead of Mrs.*

### *Membership Committee*

#### *Chairman*

*Elizabeth McPhail, *Mark Twain Branch*,  
Detroit Public Library, Detroit 13.*

### *Salary, Staff and Tenure Committee*

*Mrs. Clare Gale Small*

### *Scholarship Committee*

#### *Chairman*

*Mate Graye Hunt, Western Michigan College,  
Kalamazoo, instead of Mrs.*

*Grace Burgett*

### *Michigan Librarian*

#### *Business and Advertising Manager*

*William Peters, Chase Branch, Detroit  
Public Library, Detroit 2*

### *Committee on M.L.A. Finances*

#### *Chairman*

*Marian Young, Detroit Public Library  
H. Glen Fitch, Hillsdale College Library,  
Hillsdale*

### *Nominating Committee*

#### *Chairman*

*Mrs. Ethel Yabroff, Mackenzie High  
School Library, Detroit, Dist. 3*

*Lillian Anderson, Public Library, Kalamazoo, Dist. 1*

*Emma Sihler, Public Library, Adrian,  
Dist. 2*

*Clifford Wightman, Hackley Public Library,  
Muskegon, Dist. 4*

*Jennie Kulberg, Sage Library, Bay City,  
Dist. 5*

*Jean Johnson, Michigan State Library,  
Lower Peninsula Office, Cadillac, Dist. 6*

*Mrs. Nancy Thomas, Carnegie Public Library,  
Escanaba, Dist. 7*

### *M.L.A. Interim Study Committee on State Aid*

*Chairman: Mrs. Mary Daume, Monroe  
County Library, Monroe  
Frances Burnside, Public Library, Jackson  
Arthur Yabroff, Public Library, Detroit 2  
Mrs. Marion Wilcox, McGregor Public  
Library, Highland Park*

*Charles Follo, Upper Area, Univ. of Michigan  
Extension Service, Junior High  
School, Escanaba*

### *Program Planning Committee*

*Chairman: John Lorenz, Michigan State  
Library, Lansing 13*

*Mrs. Alma Huggins, Public Library, East  
Lansing*

*Homer Chance, Public Library, Ann Arbor  
Kathryn Kade, Kent County Public Library,  
Grand Rapids*

*Virginia Summers, Public Library, Lansing  
Irene Wilcox, Michigan State Library,  
Lansing 13*

*Kurtz Myers, Public Library, Detroit 2*

### *Local Arrangements*

*Chairman: Mrs. Fannie Noonan, Michigan  
State Library, Lansing, Lansing 13*

*Hospitality Chairman: Cora E. Lindow,  
Michigan State Library, Lansing 13*

*Registration Com. Chairman: Pauline Clark,  
West Jr. High School, Lansing*

### *Exhibits*

*Chairman: Kenneth Knight, Lansing Public  
Library*

*Geneva Kebler, Michigan State Library,  
Lansing 13*

*Frieda A. Henrichs, Michigan State Col-  
lege Library, East Lansing*

### *County Library Section*

*Vice-Chairman: Mrs. E. F. Tressider, Ingham  
County Library*

*Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. Althea L. Morris,  
Lenawee County Library*

### *Trustee Section*

*Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. C. Austin, 1025  
North Lafayette, Royal Oak*

## District Meetings - Spring 1952

### District III

District III of the Michigan Library Association held its annual Spring Meeting at Port Huron on April 16, 1952. At the morning meeting, the topic "Looking at Libraries in 1952," was discussed by a panel, of which Miss Ruth Rutzen of Detroit, was chairman. There were four participants, each of whom made a real contribution to the subject. Mr. Marion K. Kellogg, President of the Friends of Grosse Pointe Library, told of the new branch and new main library to which Grosse Pointe can point with justifiable pride by the end of this year. Mr. Cass Piatroski, attorney of Hamtramck spoke on the subject from the viewpoint of a member of a Recreation Board, describing the method by which his organization had obtained more adequate funds for the lighting of the playgrounds. Mr. Thomas Woods, Mayor of Port Huron, spoke from the viewpoint of progressive city government and education, pointing up the need for libraries to serve their communities not merely by dispensing books, but by stimulating reading on foreign, national, and local affairs. Miss Eudocia Stratton of the State Library spoke ably on the Library picture from the viewpoint of a member of the State Library staff.

At the luncheon, a short enjoyable talk was given by Miss Mary Frances Doner of St. Clair, who spoke on her work as an author of several books of fiction.

Highlights of the afternoon was the talk of Mr. John T. Frederick, Professor of Literature at Notre Dame, and book critic for the Rotarian Magazine. His review of four recent books brought many comments of pleasure and admiration from the audience.

Officers elected were:

Chairman: Jeanne Lloyd, Baldwin Public Library, Birmingham

Vice-Chairman: Eleanor Ferguson, Dearborn Public Library, Dearborn

Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. Roberta Keniston, Public Library, Ann Arbor

Chairman, Trustee Division: Mr. Marion K. Kellogg, Penobscot Building, Detroit

Vice-Chairman: Mrs. D. O. Tewksbury, 1856 Pinecrest, Ferndale

Secretary: Mrs. Clara L. Snow, 22611 Morley, Dearborn.

### District V

Librarians and trustees of District V met at the Bad Axe Methodist Church April 18. After everyone had enjoyed the coffee hour, the meeting was called to order by the chairman, Mrs. Marjorie Suit. Reports of M.L.A. activities were given by the first Vice President, Mrs. Frances Burnside. Mr. Donald Kohlsted, Vice Chairman of the State Library Board explained the proposed revision of certification requirements.

After lunch, the group enjoyed a discussion of the framed picture collection at the Harbor Beach Public Library. The theme "Fun, Knowledge and Information Through Books" was developed by Mrs. Norman Harwood, Mrs. Grace Joarder, Mrs. Neil Smith, Mrs. Joseph Rankin and Mrs. Earl Marden in short talks on several current books. Mrs. Frank Dodge introduced these ladies. An exhibit of books from the State Library was a welcome addition to this meeting.

### District VI

The sixth District meeting was held in the Community Methodist Church at Evart, Michigan, May 8, 1952, with 63 enrolling for the meeting.

The Chairman, Mrs. Lucille Rumbell, presided during the meeting. The highlights of the meeting were the talks on the Revision of Certification Requirements for Librarians of Michigan Public Libraries given by Mr. Robert Orr, President of Executive Board of M.L.A. and Mrs. George Hunter, President of State Board for Libraries. Also the panel discussion on "Fun, Knowledge, Information, Through Books," led by Mr. Jessie B. Thorpe, Assistant Professor of Library Science, Mt. Pleasant Central Michigan College. Those participating on the panel were Miss Elsa Struble, Mt. Pleasant, Miss Ruth Wittebecker, Ludington, Miss Kathryn Stanford, Ludington, Mrs. Frances Crampton, Manistee, and Miss Eudocia Stratton, Lansing.

The Librarian officers elected for 1952-53 are Chairman, Miss Grace Jessup, Petoskey; Vice Chairman, Mrs. Theresa Flaherty, Traverse City; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. Linda Potts, Frankfort.

Trustee officers for 1952-53 are Chairman, Mrs. Bill Niewkoop, Manton; Vice Chairman, Mrs. Fred Marriott, Elk Rapids; Sec. and Treas., Miss Lydia Ripatti, Lake City.

#### *Trustees*

Trustees attendance at the District Meetings averaged about twenty libraries per district. Usually one trustee represented a library.

Election of officers was held in all but one district in which the 1951-52 officers will carry over. M.L.A. membership was stressed at all of the meetings with the hope that more contacts for library trustees would bring about more co-operation on state-wide problems and views.

The topic recommended for discussion, "Is my board providing the best possible library service to my community, taking into consideration housing, staff, finances, and public relations," was used completely or in part at all of the meetings. In each case general participation was enthusiastic.

Special activities, such as Highland Park's Golden Age Club, Belding's Teen Age Stamp Club, Jackson's Book Reviewers and many others were an inspiration to less active groups.

In connection with salaries for staffs, a study of the social security rating for librarians was recommended. This should be done on a municipal basis to assure complete understanding in the community.

Conference attendance at Lansing, November 5 through 8 was urged. District meetings ended with the slogan, "See you in Lansing, November 6th." That's the trustees' day in case they cannot attend the entire conference.

#### DISTRICT OFFICERS 1952 - 53

##### **District 1—**

Chairman: Miss Cornelia Crowley, 144 S. Fifth St., Niles

Vice-Chairman: Mrs. Rena Buskirk, Paw Paw

Secretary: Mrs. Mildred Smith, 231 Lincoln, Hastings

Nom. Committee: Mrs. Allyne Dickinson, Comstock

Membership Committee: Mrs. C. I. Hoffman, 827 Wilson, South Haven

##### **District 2—**

Chairman: Mrs. M. A. Waldo, 1215 S. Genesee Drive, Lansing

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Clifford McKibbin, 626 Rosewood Drive, East Lansing

Secretary: Mrs. J. H. Kelly, Concord

##### **District 3—**

Chairman: Mr. Marion K. Kellogg, 29 Fisher Road, Grosse Pointe

Vice-Chairman: Mrs. D. O. Tewksbury, 1856 Pinewood Drive, Ferndale

Secretary: Miss Clara Snow, 22611 Morley, Dearborn

##### **District 4—**

Chairman: Mrs. C. Leslie Rolfe, Stanton

Vice-Chairman: Mrs. Wilson Dalzell, Ionia

Secretary: Mrs. Victor Harrison, Edmore

Nom. Committee: Mrs. O. S. Cross, 587 Crescent Drive, Holland

Membership Committee: Mrs. Frank Kemp, 324 East Congress St., Belding

##### **District 5—**

Chairman: Mrs. Alice Miller (Lynne T.), Ithaca

Vice-Chairman: Mrs. Helen Woodley, 823 W. Superior, Alma

Secretary: Mrs. Orville McBride, Sandusky

Nom. Committee: Mrs. Helen Woodley, 823 W. Superior, Alma

Membership Committee: Mrs. D. E. Hammond, Vassar

##### **District 6—**

Chairman: Mrs. Bill Niewkoop, Manton

Vice-Chairman: Mrs. Fred Marriott, Elk Rapids

Secretary: Miss Lydia Ripatti, Lake City

##### **District 7—**

Chairman: Mr. L. D. Randall, Norway

Vice-Chairman:

Secretary: Mrs. L. J. Straub, Iron Mountain

#### *Help Wanted*

Grosse Pointe Public Library has four positions opening by the end of the year; two Children's Librarians, two General Reference Assistants. Top salary schedule, retirement, sick leave, four weeks vacation. Located in attractive Detroit suburb, the library has much to offer. Apply to Robert M. Orr, Director, 15430 Kercheval Avenue, Grosse Point 30, Michigan.

## *Developments at Western Michigan*

The Physical Sciences Library at Western Michigan College of Education has been in existence since Fall, 1949, when the new science building, William McCracken Hall, opened. It is administered by Mr. Taisto Niemi, Assistant Cataloger of the College Library Staff as a branch of the library. A year previous to this time a paper technology curriculum was instituted.

In conjunction with this new course of study the library has attempted to build up its paper technology holdings in periodicals and books by various means. During the year 1950-51 over thirty libraries were contacted which were known to have periodical collections in this field. Request lists were sent to those libraries along with lists of duplicate items that were available for exchange. By this method the library received and sent out thirty volumes of periodicals. The Universities of Washington and Oregon, Case Institute and Washington State College were the major participants in this.

From a vast gift of general science and paper periodicals from two area paper companies, Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment and Michigan Paper Company, the Library was able to realize further additions to its holdings. The duplicate materials received were sold and a sizeable sum was then available for paying shipping costs and for the purchase of additional materials. This was made possible in a large part through the work of the special library committee made up of faculty and industrial leaders which worked under the sponsorship of the Advisory Committee on Pulp and Paper Technology, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Mention must be made of one individual, Dr. Alfred Nadelman, who is head of the paper technology curriculum. Dr. Nadelman has made a gift of over two dozen volumes of bound periodicals to further round out the library's periodical holdings.

The library also became a member of the United States Book Exchange and has sent well over 500 periodical items for exchange. The library has already received several valua-

able additions to its collections through this source.

Thus through library cooperation, industrial and individual gifts, the Physical Science Library has realized a successful build-up of its periodical holdings.

In the Fall of 1952, the Physical Sciences Library will be transferred to form a nucleus for a Library Annex classroom building on the west campus. The Library there will then serve physical sciences, political science, English, history and possible economics.

The Harper C. Maybee Musical Library of Western Michigan College was started two years ago to serve the music department when it moved into its new building on the West Campus. It is administered by Miss Ada Berkey, Reference Librarian of the College Library staff as a branch of the library. During these two years the collection has grown rapidly and purchases have been checked against the recommended lists published by the National Association of Schools of Music. An extensive collection of phonograph records is made available for student listening in a listening room adjacent to the library, which is equipped with five turntables each with two sets of earphones. Almost three hundred long play records have been added to the collection during these two years. Student and faculty interest in the library is constantly growing and both groups have been generous in suggesting materials which they felt should be in the collection. Use of the various collections: books, scores, sheet music and phonograph records doubled during the second year of the library's existence. The growth and increased use of the library were important factors in the recent accreditation of the school of music by the National Association of Schools of Music. Several fine memorial gifts have been added to the library's collections.

The most important of these gifts is the Edward's reprint of the Complete Works of Mozart which is a memorial to Harper Maybee, a former head of the music department.

## Catalogers

The Michigan Regional Group of Catalogers held its spring 1952 meeting jointly with the Reference Section and the College Section of the Michigan Library Association on May 21 in Charles McKenny Hall at the Michigan State Normal College in Ypsilanti. After the morning coffee hour and registration, the groups had lunch together and heard an address by Professor Hayward Keniston of the University of Michigan on "Libraries and the American Tradition". The groups then held separate afternoon meetings.

At 2:00 P.M. the President, Miss Virginia Alexander, called the meeting to order. Twenty-eight members were present.

The minutes of the November 2, 1951 meeting were read and approved and the treasurer's report read and accepted.

Miss Phoebe Lumaree read again the report of the Committee on Constitutional Revision which had been read, as a notice of proposed changes, at the November 1951 meeting.

The amendments adopted, on motion of Miss Lumaree were: 1: To add to the statement concerning the group's name, making it also

"the Catalog Section of the Michigan Library Association"

2. To change the "year" to conform with the official year of the Michigan Library Association.

The President next initiated an informal discussion of the type of meeting best liked by the members. It was felt that the group's officers would profit by a general expression of opinion on this subject and many good suggestions were made for future meetings.

## School Librarians

The School Librarian's Institute will be held at St. Mary's Lake Camp, Battle Creek September 19-20, 1952. It is being sponsored by the School and Children's Section of the Michigan Library Association.

The theme of this year's Institute is "Books Help Growing Personalities". Several outstanding speakers have been secured to assist with the topic for discussion: Helen L.

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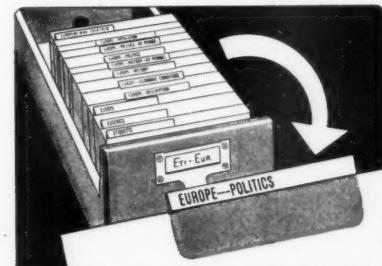
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Programs and reservations will be mailed out early in September. If you do not receive one contact Esther Barth, General Chairman, Monroe High School, Monroe, Michigan or Retha Johnson, 325 Oak Street, Wyandotte, Michigan.

All Librarians, Teachers, Superintendents, Principals and others interested in School Library problems are invited to attend.

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Balance in Treasury January 1, 1951	\$	3023.59
including all funds -----		
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Dues, Institutional -----	513.50	
Dues, Personal -----	3291.55	
Dues, Trustee -----	194.00	3999.05
Total		
Conference -----		3495.44
Districts 1, 2, 4-7 -----		28.09
District 3 -----		2.30
Fyan Gift Fund -----		300.00
Institute -----		147.10
Michigan Librarian		
Advertising -----	367.20	
Subscriptions and Sales -----	3.25	
Total -----		370.45
Packard Trustee Fund -----		192.00
Scholarship Fund -----		111.89
Total Receipts -----		8646.32
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b> -----		11669.91
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>		
Advisory Council and Executive Board -----		478.39

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Bement Memorial Fund	-----	300.00	Sections
Committees, Special	-----		RECA
Committees, Standing	-----	394.80	Total R
Legislature	427.30		J
Membership	143.64		Total D
Planning	57.90		J
Public Relations	58.45		I
Salary, Staff and Tenure	66.40		Bement
Publications	00.00		District
Scholarship	00.00		Fyan G
Total	753.69		Packard
Conference	1344.45		Scholars
Districts 1, 2, +7	92.25		General
District 3	4.38		Balance
Dues, Personal	4.00		Bement
Dues, Trustee	1.00		District
Executive Secretary, Salary of	875.00		G
Michigan Librarian	2006.51		I
Office Expense—			B
Bonding Fees	25.00		District
Clerical Aid for Officers	54.05		C
Postage and Express	111.10		I
Stationery and Supplies	144.77		N
Telephone and Telegraph	57.18		I
Total	392.10		1
Packard Trustee Fund	7.20		1

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Scholarship Fund	121.50
Sections	197.06
Total	6997.33
<b>RECAPITULATION</b>	
Total Receipts Including All Funds	
January 1—December 31, 1951	11,669.91
Total Disbursements	
January 1—December 31, 1951	6997.33
Balance on hand December 31, 1951	4672.58
Bement Memorial Fund	435.60
District 3	85.51
Fyan Gift Fund	500.00
Packard Trustee Fund	958.27
Scholarship Fund	114.70
General M.L.A. Funds	2578.50
Total	4672.58
Balance in bank December 31, 1951	4672.58
Bement Memorial Fund	
On hand January 1, 1951	735.60
Disbursements January 1—December 31, 1951	300.00
Balance December 31, 1951	435.60
District 3	
On hand January 1, 1951	87.59
Receipts January 1—December 31, 1951	2.30
Disbursements January 1—December 31, 1951	4.38
Balance December 31, 1951	85.51

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Receipts January 1—December 31, 1951	-----	300.00
Balance December 31, 1951	-----	500.00
Packard Trustee Fund		
On hand January 1, 1951	-----	773.47
Receipts January 31—December 31, 1951	-----	192.00
Disbursements January 1—December 31, 1951	-----	7.20
Balance December 31, 1951	-----	958.27
Scholarship Fund		
On hand January 1, 1951	-----	124.31
Receipts January 1—December 31, 1951	-----	111.89
Disbursements January 1—December 31, 1951	-----	121.50
Balance December 31, 1951	-----	114.70

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